

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SALEM, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2014**

PRESENT

Frank Sroka/ Chairman
Andrew Lightner (Late)
Ada Vaill
Jenifer Lee

ABSENT

Kenneth Bondi
Wendy Mikolinski

GUESTS

Cindy Noe/ Recording Secretary

Carl Fontneau
Kevin Lyden
Robert Ross

1. CALLED TO ORDER

Frank Sroka called the meeting to order 7:07pm.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

3. ELECTION OF A SECRETARY

No discussion took place. Election took place at the 3/17/14 meeting

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING ON JUNE 17, 2013

Minutes approved as amended.

Page 1, ¶ 1, to seat Alt, Kenneth Sroka Bondi as a full Commission member.

M/S/C-(Lee/ Vaill) - to approve March 17, 2014 minutes as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

5.) COMMUNICATIONS

Sroka stated that the Board of Finance sent out a letter with the dates for the next Town meeting and Referendum. He stated the Town meeting is May 7, 2014 at Salem School and the Referendum is May 14, 2014 at Salem Town Hall.

6.) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7.) REPORTS

A. SELECTMAN'S REPORT

K. Lyden presented the Selectman's report. Lyden stated that the town has applied for a STEAP Grant in the amount of \$325,000.00. He stated that the grant could be used for landscaping and streetscaping. Lyden notified the Commission that the UCONN seniors and juniors that have been working on streetscape ideas for Salem will be giving their PowerPoint presentation on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7pm at the town hall. Lyden stated that the Board of Finance has agreed to fund a \$50,000.00 educational efficiency study of Salem School. Lyden explained that the study would give an outside perspective on how Salem School may improve. He also stated that he believes the study could be completed by the next budget cycle.

B. P & Z LIAISON (ADA VAILL)

Ada Vaill stated that a new ordinance has passed that allowed residence with under 2 acres of land to own a maximum of 10 chickens.

8.) OLD BUSINESS

A. TOWN BROCHURE

No update on the brochure. Bondi/Mikolinski are working on this project and were not present.

B. BUSINESS OWNERS SURVEY

Sroka stated that this project still needs to be worked on. He stated that the EDC should consider visiting business owners for the survey because of scheduling conflicts.

C. PACKET PROJECT FOR NEW BUSINESS OWNERS CONSIDERING SALEM

Sroka will discuss this idea with Serra. Sroka stated that infrastructure is one of the biggest problems for the town enticing new business to reside here. He feels the biggest issue is the lack of 3 phase electrical power. Sroka also stated another problem is that new construction businesses would also have to drill wells and install septic systems.

D. PASSPORT PROJECT

Sroka stated that this project is an idea of a loyalty program card to be punched at different Salem businesses for some benefit when completely punched. He also stated that this project could be added to the business survey.

E. TOURISM MAP PROJECT

This project is on hold right now. Lee stated that the original intent of this project was to create a quality map to sell as a fundraiser.

F. SALEM BUSINESS DATA BASE

Sroka will talk to Lyden regarding data base information. Vaill stated that the information gathered could be posted on the town website as a local business directory. The Commission discussed creating an EDC website with the gathered information to entice future business. Sroka stated that an EDC website could also state some of Salem's Planning and Zoning regulations.

G. SALEM TOWN CENTER WINDOW IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (K. BONDI)

Sroka stated this project has been completed.

H. OPEN HOUSE TO SHOW VACANT BUSINESSES/PAVILION OPEN HOUSE

Ross stated that he felt Bondi would be great at promoting this project.

9.) NEW BUSINESS

A. 2014/2015 BUDGET STATUS

The budget was lowered to \$1500.00 at the 3/27/14 Board of Finance meeting.

B. 2012/2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Sroka stated he submitted the annual report to Susan Spang.

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Lee asked what the status was on receiving a zoning map of Salem. Sroka stated he will discuss getting a zoning map with Lyden. Lee suggested inviting the current Town Planner, Richard Serra, to an EDC meeting to discuss what type of business the current infrastructure could support. Sroka will discuss having Serra attend a meeting with Lyden.

10. NEXT MEETING/ MEETING ADJOURNED

The next EDC meeting is May 19, 2014 at 7pm.

M/S/C- (Vail/ Lee) - to adjourn meeting at 8:42pm

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted
Cindy Noe
Recording Secretary